

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC TO OPEN IN APRIL



Photo "Volunteer Vet and Tech" by Feral Indeed! on flickr.com.

If everything goes according to plan, the SAAFhouse Spay-Neuter Clinic will open its doors in April 2010. This will be the first high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the state of Missouri using the Humane Alliance model. Humane Alliance is based in Asheville, North Carolina. It began in 1994 as a small operation that used a pickup truck to transport animals, and has turned into a national gold standard model for high-quality, high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter. The model is based on a few simple concepts:

- Develop a surgery technique that is a model of efficiency
- Perform a large number of surgeries
- Provide only spay/neuter and other limited one-time services so that there is no competition with the veterinary community
- Pay the staff a competitive wage

Humane Alliance believed using these principles would keep costs low enough to serve pet owners who could not otherwise afford to have their pets spayed or neutered. And guess what? It worked. Using a mentoring program called the National Spay Neuter Response Team, Humane Alliance began helping communities around the country open clinics in late 2004. Sixty-nine clinics have opened in the last five years, preventing the births of tens of thousands of unwanted dogs and cats.

The Springfield clinic will be operated by Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation (SAAF). The timeline is on schedule for an April opening. A building has been found in north Springfield. It is an excellent location

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

<u>In Memoriam</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Pets and Holiday Stress</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Things to Smile About</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Meeting Dates</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Client Letter</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Special Thanks</u>	<u>5</u>

*Newsletter printed courtesy of
 Corporate Business Systems*





SNAP's mission is to eliminate the need for euthanasia in our community's shelters, to reduce the number of homeless animals, and to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Cindy Bird
Mike Divine, DVM
Anne Heim
Sara Houston
Phyllis Kiefer
Lisa Koontz
Janet Martin
Susan Smith
Becky Seigel
Tamara Teal
Becky Thompson
Liz Tracy*

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

*Janet Martin
Rhonda Lewsader*

CONTACT

*PO Box 14354
Springfield, MO 65814
417.823.7627
www.snap123.org
spayneuter123@gmail.com*

**SNAP is a Missouri
501(c)(3) nonprofit
corporation.**

(Continued from page 1)

because it is in the heart of the area that is in the greatest need of services. An offer has been made and accepted on the building; however, a zoning change is required. That process is expected to be completed in mid-January. Then the property will be purchased and renovations will begin. Fortunately, no major work is required—stripping and sealing floors and installing dry-wall are the main tasks to be accomplished.

Fundraising is underway as well. Several grants have been awarded, while others are pending. Funds must be raised to pay for equipment, supplies, and a cash reserve to use as needed in the first few months of operation.

SAAFhouse will initially serve Greene and Christian Counties, but expansion is possible in the future. Spay/neuter services will be provided to area rescues and shelters. This will give animal groups one centralized clinic to use rather than the current patchwork of private veterinarians. The remainder of surgeries—the goal is 6,000 for the first year—will be targeted to low-income households and feral cat caregivers.

SNAP is one of seven SAAF member agencies, along with



Animal Abuse Council, CARE, Laws for Paws, Pet Connection, Springfield-Greene County Animal Control, and SW MO K9s. SNAP will play a very important role by referring clients to the clinic, as will other groups and animal control agencies. Specifically, SAAFhouse will partner with animal control agencies in Springfield, Ash Grove, Strafford, Republic, Nixa, and Ozark to refer clients most in need of help. In addition, five area vets have already signed on to provide free follow-up exams. This will encourage responsible pet owner behavior in a population that has not always been accountable. Finally, SAAFhouse hopes to work with the Citizenship and Service Learning program at Missouri State University and the Animal Ethics program at Drury University to provide hands-on experience for students interested in animal welfare.

For more information, please visit the SAAF website at <http://www.saaf2018.org> and Humane Alliance at <http://www.humanealliance.org>.



In Memoriam

*Alexis
Demon Bare
David Jurmann*

Four Things to Smile About



1. Dogs love us. A lot.



2. Panache never goes out of style.



3. The day this photo was taken, Carson was adopted.



4. Some people are making the world a better place for pets.

Client Letter

Just a note to say Thank You very much for assistance in getting my dog, Foxy, spayed. She had the surgery on Monday and is recovering nicely. I look forward to being able to give back to your organization someday.

Thanks again!

L. Anderson



The Most Wonderful Stress of the Year

Holidays are supposed to be a magical time of family and fun. Unfortunately, the frantic pace of the holiday season can create a lot of stress. But humans are not the only members of our households that experience stress at the holidays – pets do, too.



Pets love routine, but the holiday can represent one long interruption of it. We are busy when at home, gone more often, and guests are coming and going. Delicious smells fill our houses. Packages are wrapped in colorful papers so tempting to shred and adorned with bows and ribbons appropriate for pulling. In some houses, a tree clearly in need of a cat to climb it will be placed in the family area. Humans will veer inexplicably from laughter to irritation to sentimentality, while Rover and Miss Tabby watch from the floor, just wishing they could have their couch back.

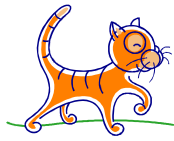
So how do we do eliminate stress for our pets? We should try to maintain their regular feeding and exercise times. We can also try to prevent problems by planning ahead. Decorations such as Christmas trees and lights that can be hazardous to a pet can be made more secure. A heavier base for that tree Miss Tabby might climb will prevent it from falling over. Decorations placed higher than Rover's tail wags are not in danger of being knocked over. The trash can that may be filled with tempting items can be covered or put in a closet.

We can also let pets participate in activities at home to the extent their interest and training allow. Here are a few strategies to make the interaction between guests and pets go more smoothly. First, exercise pets before guests arrive, to reduce their level of energy. Second, communicate the rules for your pets to your guests, such as what sort of treats pets can have. Third, read your pets' body language. A panting dog may be a

stressed dog. A cat frantically scratching at the back door has had enough of the party. Fourth, make sure there is a quiet area in the house your pet can retreat to, whether it is a crate or a room. A pet that dislikes company should be put there before guests arrive.

One of the best ways to reduce our pets' stress also reduces our own: quality time together. A walk together reduces stress for pet and human. A kind word gladdens the heart of the speaker and the listener. Cuddling time soothes the raw emotions of human and animal. A thoughtless reaction to stress may fracture a weak bond, but the thoughtful handling of stress makes a bond grow stronger. We should remember through the holidays to approach our pets with the kindness, the gentleness, the calmness, and the affection they receive in less stressful times. While we will be offering them only what they deserve, they will remember and repay us every day of the year.





Meeting Dates



Board of Directors Meetings

6:30 pm

January 19 (Story Hour Room) *

February 16 (Room A) *

March 15 (Room A)

Volunteer Meeting

6:30 pm

March 3 (Room A)

All meetings are held at the Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, unless otherwise noted.



*** Meetings scheduled on Tuesday because of holidays.**



Special Thanks

Pocket Change for Pets Program

SNAP thanks the newest members:

Michelle Maserang at Innovation Salon

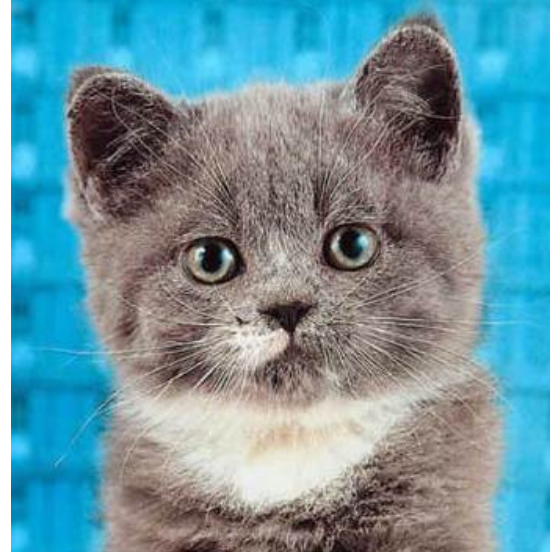
AmyCakes (formerly the Bakehouse)

And these members for their continued support:

Incense and Peppermints

Queen City Cycles

Traders Printing Company



The spare change collected in the donation canisters at these and other locations adds up to a significant contribution to SNAP's fund for spay/neuter surgeries. Please support the businesses that support us!



PO Box 14354, Springfield, MO 65814

417.823.7627, www.snap123.org, spayneuter123@gmail.com

Solutions!
PO Box 14354
Springfield, MO 65814

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MO
PERMIT #81



Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.
The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation

YES!

I would like to become a member of SNAP to help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Southwest Missouri. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, acknowledgement on the SNAP website, and an invitation to SNAP's annual meeting. (Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible. Payment may be made by check or money order.)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | |

OR...

- ___ I want to help! Please send information about becoming a SNAP volunteer.
___ I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.
___ Please make a donation in memory of _____
___ Please send me information on estate planning .
___ I would like to "Sponsor-a-Spay." I am enclosing \$ _____ to sponsor:
___ A specific pet (indicate pet's name) _____
___ The pet at the top of SNAP's waiting list

MAIL TO: SNAP • P.O. Box 14354 • Springfield, MO 65814 • (417)823-7627
www.snap123.org